

Calendar No. 102

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 65

Condemning the murder of Turkish-Armenian journalist and human rights advocate Hrant Dink and urging the people of Turkey to honor his legacy of tolerance.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 1, 2007

Mr. BIDEN (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. DODD, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. REED, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

MARCH 29, 2007

Reported by Mr. BIDEN, with an amendment and an amendment to the preamble

[Strike out all after the resolving clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

[Strike the preamble and insert the part printed in *italic*]

RESOLUTION

Condemning the murder of Turkish-Armenian journalist and human rights advocate Hrant Dink and urging the people of Turkey to honor his legacy of tolerance.

Whereas ~~Hrant Dink was a respected, eloquent advocate for press freedom, human rights, and reconciliation;~~

Whereas, ~~in 1996, Mr. Dink founded the weekly bilingual newspaper Agos and, as the paper's editor in chief, used~~

the paper to provide a voice for Turkey's Armenian community;

Whereas Mr. Dink was a strong proponent of rapprochement between Turks and Armenians and worked diligently to improve relations between those communities;

Whereas Mr. Dink's commitment to democratic values, non-violence, and freedom in the media earned him widespread recognition and numerous international awards;

Whereas Mr. Dink was prosecuted under Article 301 of the Turkish Penal Code for speaking about the Armenian Genocide;

Whereas, notwithstanding hundreds of threats to Mr. Dink's life and safety, he remained a steadfast proponent of pluralism and tolerance;

Whereas Mr. Dink was assassinated outside the offices of Agos in Istanbul, Turkey, on January 19, 2007;

Whereas tens of thousands of people in Turkey of many ethnicities protested Mr. Dink's killing and took to the streets throughout the country to honor his memory;

Whereas the Government of Turkey has pledged to undertake a full investigation into the murder of Mr. Dink;

Whereas the Prime Minister of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, has stated that when Mr. Dink was shot, "a bullet was fired at freedom of thought and democratic life in Turkey";

Whereas the Foreign Minister of Armenia, Vartan Oskanian, stated that Mr. Dink "lived his life in the belief that there can be understanding, dialogue and peace amongst peoples"; and

~~Whereas Mr. Dink's tragic death affirmed the importance of promoting the values that he championed in life. Now, therefore, be it~~

Whereas Hrant Dink was a respected, eloquent advocate for press freedom, human rights, and reconciliation;

Whereas, in 1996, Mr. Dink founded the weekly bilingual newspaper Agos and, as the paper's editor in chief, used the paper to provide a voice for Turkey's Armenian community;

Whereas Mr. Dink was a strong proponent of rapprochement between Turks and Armenians and worked diligently to improve relations between those communities;

Whereas Mr. Dink's commitment to democratic values, non-violence, and media freedom earned him widespread recognition and numerous international awards;

Whereas Mr. Dink was subjected to legal action under Article 301 of the Turkish Penal Code for referring to the 1915 massacre of Armenians as genocide;

Whereas, notwithstanding hundreds of threats to Mr. Dink's life and safety, he remained a steadfast proponent of pluralism and tolerance;

Whereas Mr. Dink was assassinated outside the offices of Agos in Istanbul, Turkey, on January 19, 2007;

Whereas tens of thousands of people in Turkey of many ethnicities protested Mr. Dink's killing and took to the streets throughout the country to honor his memory;

Whereas the Government of Turkey has pledged to undertake a full investigation into the murder of Mr. Dink;

Whereas the Prime Minister of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, has stated that when Mr. Dink was shot, "a bul-

let was fired at freedom of thought and democratic life in Turkey”;

Whereas the Foreign Minister of Armenia, Vartan Oskanian, stated that Mr. Dink “lived his life in the belief that there can be understanding, dialogue and peace amongst peoples”; and

Whereas Mr. Dink’s tragic death affirmed the importance of promoting the values that he championed in life: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

1 (1) condemns the murder of Hrant Dink as a
2 shameful act of cowardice perpetrated with contempt
3 for law, justice, and decency;

4 (2) supports the pledge of the Government of
5 Turkey to conduct an exhaustive investigation into
6 the assassination of Mr. Dink and to prosecute those
7 responsible;

8 (3) urges the Government of Turkey to repeal
9 Article 301 of the Turkish Penal Code and work
10 diligently to foster a more open intellectual environ-
11 ment in the country that is conducive to the free ex-
12 change of ideas;

13 (4) recognizes the decision of the Government
14 of Turkey to invite senior Armenian religious and
15 political figures to participate in memorial services
16 for Mr. Dink;

1 (5) calls on the Government of Turkey to act in
2 the interest of regional security and prosperity and
3 reestablish full diplomatic, political, and economic
4 relations with the Government of Armenia; and

5 (6) urges the people of Turkey to honor Mr.
6 Dink's legacy of tolerance.

7 *That the Senate—*

8 (1) *condemns the murder of Hrant Dink, which*
9 *was perpetrated with contempt for law, justice, and*
10 *decency;*

11 (2) *supports the pledge of the Government of*
12 *Turkey to conduct an exhaustive investigation into*
13 *the assassination of Mr. Dink and acknowledges the*
14 *prompt arrest of individuals allegedly responsible for*
15 *the killing;*

16 (3) *urges the Government of Turkey to repeal Ar-*
17 *ticle 301 of the Turkish Penal Code and work dili-*
18 *gently to foster a more open intellectual environment*
19 *in the country that is conducive to the free exchange*
20 *of ideas;*

21 (4) *recognizes the decision of the Government of*
22 *Turkey to invite senior Armenian religious and polit-*
23 *ical figures to participate in memorial services for*
24 *Mr. Dink;*

1 (5) *calls on the Government of Turkey and the*
2 *Government of Armenia to act in the interest of re-*
3 *gional security and prosperity and reestablish full*
4 *diplomatic, political, and economic relations;*

5 (6) *supports Mr. Dink's wish that Turkey pursue*
6 *further integration into Euro–Atlantic institutions*
7 *and encourages the Government of Turkey to enact re-*
8 *forms conducive to such ends; and*

9 (7) *urges the people of Turkey to honor Mr.*
10 *Dink's legacy of tolerance.*

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